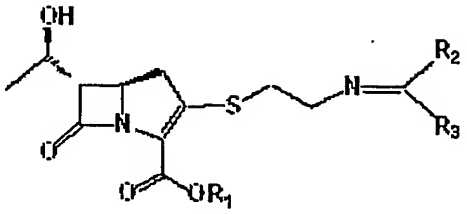
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of Formula II below:

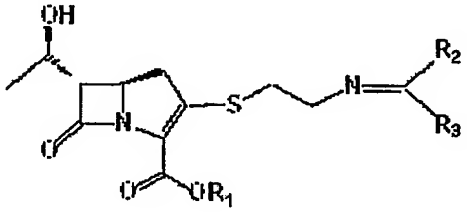


(II)

wherein

R_1 is a p-nitrobenzyl or p-methoxybenzyl group; and R_2 and R_3 may be identical to or different from each other and are each independently a $C_{1\sim6}$ alkyl or aryl group, or a derivative thereof.

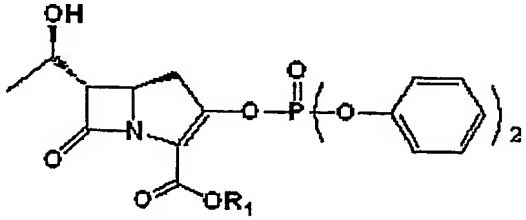
2. A process for preparing a compound of Formula II below:



(II)

wherein

R_1 is a p-nitrobenzyl or p-methoxybenzyl group; and R_2 and R_3 may be identical to or different from each other and are each independently a $C_{1\sim6}$ alkyl or aryl group, by coupling a compound of Formula IV below:

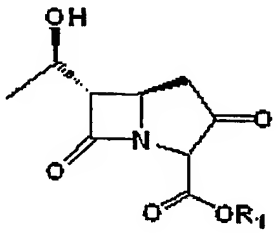


(IV)

wherein R_1 is a p-nitrobenzyl or p-methoxybenzyl group, or a derivative thereof, with 2-aminoethanethiol hydrochloride in the presence of a base, followed by reaction with a ketone.

3. The process according to claim 2, wherein the ketone is selected from the group consisting of acetone, methylethylketone, diphenylketone, and mixtures thereof.

4. The process according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the compound of Formula IV or a derivative thereof is obtained by condensing a compound of Formula III below:



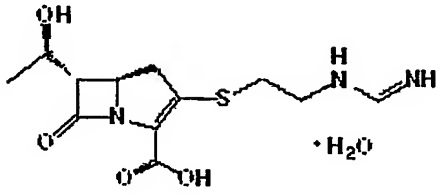
(III)

wherein R_1 is a p-nitrobenzyl or p-methoxybenzyl group, with diphenylchlorophosphate in the presence of a base.

5. The process according to claim 4, wherein the reaction solvent is a mixed solvent of acetonitrile and tetrahydrofuran.

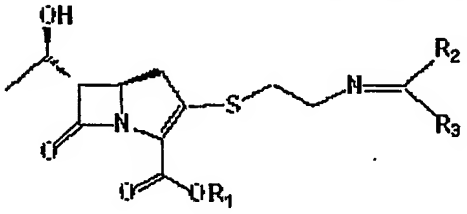
6. The process according to claim 4, wherein the reaction temperature is within the range of 0°C to -10°C.

7. A process for preparing the compound of Formula I below:



(I)

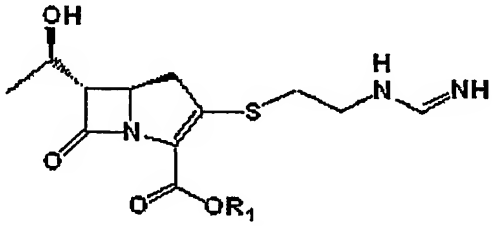
by reacting a compound of Formula II below:



(II)

wherein

R_1 is a p-nitrobenzyl or p-methoxybenzyl group; and R_2 and R_3 may be identical to or different from each other and are each independently a $C_{1\sim6}$ alkyl or aryl group, with isopropylformimidate or benzylformimidate in the presence of a base to obtain a compound of Formula V below:



(V)

wherein R_1 is a p-nitrobenzyl or p-methoxybenzyl group, hydrogenating the compound of Formula V in the presence of a metal catalyst, separating the hydrogenated compound, and crystallizing the separated compound in the presence of an alcohol or ketone.

8. The process according to claim 7, wherein the hydrogenation

is carried out in the presence of a palladium catalyst containing an excess of water under a hydrogen pressure of 4~6 kg/cm^2.

9. The process according to claim 7, wherein the reaction solvent is a mixed solvent of water and tetrahydrofuran.